

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 01832 111448Z

66

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /092 W

----- 028206

R 111348Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9993

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1832

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG SY

SUBJECT: U.S. OIL COMPANIES IN SYRIA

REF: DAMASCUS 0721

1. AT RECENT LUNCHEON FOR VISITING MOBIL VP MASSAD, EMBOFF HAD DISCUSSION WITH MUHAMMED AL-GAZZAR, MANAGER OF TRANSWORLD OIL COMPANY'S EGYPT OPERATION, WHO HAS ALSO BEEN WORKING ON TRIPCO'S SYRIAN PROJECT, AL-GAZZAR, EGYPTIAN BY BIRTH, VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING COMMENTS WITH WHICH EMBASSY DAMASCUS PROBABLY FAMILIAR, BUT WHICH ARE REPEATED AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST.

2. AL-GAZZAR SAID THAT SYRIANS HAVE ASKED FOR AND ACCEPTED HELP FROM EGYPTIANS REGARDING PREPARATION OF EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS, BUT THAT TERMS THAT EGYPTIANS ARE ASKING ARE TOO STIFF FOR CONCESSIONS IN SYRIA, WHICH ARE FAR MORE UNCERTAIN. UNLIKE EGYPTIANS, HE SAID, SYRIANS DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE BASIC SEISMIC SURVEYS AVAILABLE TO COMPANIES. EXPLORATIONS ARE THEREFORE MERELY STABS IN THE DARK, WHICH AT CURRENT PRICES ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 01832 111448Z

3. EMBOFF ASKED AL-GAZZAR WHAT ADVICE HE WOULD
GIVE SYRIA. HE SAID SYRIANS SHOULD SOFTEN TERMS FOR AN
INITIAL PERIOD TO GET ONE OR TWO AMERICAN COMPANIES TO SIGN
UP, THEN GROW INTO EGYPTIAN BASED MODEL. FYI RADWAN
IBRAHIM, EGPC AGREEMENTS DIRECTOR, WHO WENT TO SYRIA
TO OFFER ASSISTANCE LAST YEAR, HAS SAID ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS
THAT SYRIANS HAVE BEEN TOO RIGID IN IMPLEMENTING HIS
SUGGESTIONS. END FYI.
EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS, SEISMIC PROSPECTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO01832
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760052-1063
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760261/aaaacbdc.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DAMASCUS 721
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. OIL COMPANIES IN SYRIA
TAGS: ENRG, SY, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006